



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

November 15, through December 1, 1998

1. CHD AT CENTER FOR NEW COMMUNITY CONFERENCE: CHD Research Director Robert Crawford led a workshop at the Center for New Community's first annual conference, focused on the anti-immigrant movement. Crawford profiled anti-immigrant organizations and examined the broader base that supports the movement. The conference featured Dr. Cornel West and Leonard Zeskind as the main speakers with a plenary session lead by the CNC's Devin Burghart. Nick Lowles, of the British anti-fascist newsletter *Searchlight*, was also present and led a workshop on neo-fascism in Europe. Other workshops leaders included Marlene Hines of the Mountain State Network Against Bigotry, Carrie Fleider of the Southern Institute for Education and Research, Eric Ward of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Midwest Treaty Network and Dave Ostendorf of the Center for New Community.

2. DEATH THREAT RECEIVED AT NORTH IDAHO COLLEGE: Racist hate mail containing a death threat was received by an employee at the North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The recipient is making no formal charges and no suspects have been caught. The president of NIC, Michael Burke, said, "I fully intend to continue this institution's long-standing support for a working and learning environment that is free of racism, hatred and malicious harassment." (*Spokesman Review*, November 3, 1998)

3. CROSS BURNINGS

- A small wooden cross was burned in the front yard of an African-American woman's home in Lancaster, California. The remains of the burned cross were discovered leaning against a tree on the morning of November 10, as the victim was picking up garbage from a trash can that had been turned over in her yard. Skinheads were known to be in the area several years ago but have not been seen there in recent years.
- A cross was found on the front lawn of an interracial family living in Yelm, Washington. The cross, painted white, was hammered into the ground at the home of the family who live in the gated community of Nisqually Pines. Jason Bryan, a 21 year old resident of the community has been arrested in connection with the case. A suspected methamphetamine lab was found in Bryan's home and he was also booked on possession charges.
- In Virginia, Barry Black, the Imperial Wizard of the International Keystone Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was recently tried for breaking the states anti-cross-burning law. Black, who was defended by a black ACLU attorney, tried to defend himself on grounds of free speech and the constitutionality of the law. Black lost his case and now faces a grand jury trial where, if he is convicted, he faces one to five years.
- Michael Brad Magleby is facing federal hate crime charges in Utah for a September cross burning in an interracial couple's yard. This is Utah's first federal hate crime since 1996. Magleby is also charged with conspiracy to commit the crime, obstruction of justice for attempting to intimidate witnesses and creating a false alibi, and for using fire or explosives while violating someone's civil rights. He stands to face a minimum of ten years in prison if convicted of any hate crime charges. (*Los Angeles Times*, November 11, 1998; *The News Tribune*, November 6, 1998; *The Olympian*, November 14, 1998; AP, November 14, 1998; *Salt Lake Tribune*, November 21, 1998)

4. ANTI-GAY VANDALISM: Eggs were thrown at the home of a gay Kitsap, Washington teen on Halloween night. The parents of the teen were warned of the attack, directed at their son because he is gay, before it happened. Four teens were caught as they began to barrage the home with eggs. The prosecuting Attorney's Office is investigating for possible hate crime charges. (*The Sun*, November 4, 1998)

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5. SAM FRANCIS' WAR IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY: Sam Francis, of the Rockford Institute, has stated that in order for the Republican Party "to survive, let alone recapture its momentum of the 1980s, it needs a good, long blood-bath at its top." He complained that the party has been obsessed with President Clinton's various "conspiracy theories" and scandals. So, Francis continues, "The GOP has ignored almost every substantive political issue their base voters care about—immigration, affirmative action, gun control, social and moral issues, the power of the federal leviathan, the globalist crusade for a New World Order that would gut national sovereignty, and the erosion of the American middle class caused by free trade and federal taxation." (*The Spotlight*, November 23, 1998)

6. HERITAGE PARTY SPLITS REPUBLICAN VOTE: The anti-abortion and anti-gay American Heritage Party recently cost the Washington state Republican party the 1st District Congressional seat for Bainbridge Island. Bruce Craswell, the AHP candidate, received only six percent of the vote in the primary election and five percent in the general election. However, Craswell stood firm with his party's position—putting abortion as a central election issue—when he revealed that he expected the Republican Party would drop the abortion issue but it would be "the death knell of the Republican Party."

AHP is an affiliate of the U.S. Taxpayers Party and carries a 32 plank platform ranging from civil rights to veto authority. The AHP's Civil Rights plank claims that "all rights come from God" and therefore, "each time a government presumes to improve upon God's work by granting special rights to a group, it denies the rights of other individuals." At the same time, under their Constitutional Convention plank, AHP "opposes any attempt to call for a constitutional convention, because it could seriously erode our constitutionally protected unalienable rights." The AHP's Homosexuality plank "opposes the granting of special minority status to homosexuals, child adoption by homosexuals and redefinition of gender to include categories other than male and female." The group's Immigration plank explains that "America's strength and prosperity lie in her unity as 'One Nation under God.'" Looking out for the white majority, AHP states that, "Uncontrolled immigration policies divide America along ethnic lines and weaken her national identity." AHP also supports English as America's official language with a Language plank. Their Racism plank states that "Racism is fueled by Affirmative Action and similar minority equalization schemes and the teaching of evolution in public schools."

The American Heritage Party is: Daniel R. Eby, State Chairman; Todd Richert, State Vice Chairman; Lisa Shinn, State Secretary; Rod Shinn, State Treasurer; Ellen Craswell, National Committee Representative; Keven Haining, 1st Congressional District Representative; Lorne House, 4th Congressional District Representative; and Doug Simpson, 5th Congressional District Representative. (AHP of Washington 1998 State Platform; *Seattle Times*, November 9, 1998)

7. WESTERN STUDENT CONFESSES TO HATE MAIL: Authorities at Western Washington University say that they have found the student who sent threatening emails to two student activists working against the Washington state anti-affirmative action measure I-200 last month. University administrators and authorities say they are determining the proper punishment for the 26 year old student but are not releasing his name. However, because both victims are white campus police say the threats do not constitute a hate crime because they "didn't meet the statutory criteria as a race or gender bias"—even though the message was signed "KKK" and used the term "pitiful minority lover." University Police Chief James Shaw excused the perpetrator as "overly upset over all the attention the I-200 folks were getting." Shaw added, "He just felt it was being overly politicized." (*Bellingham Herald*, November 4, 1998)

8. DISCRIMINATION SUIT FILED AGAINST PORTLAND CLOTHING STORE: An African-American woman has filed a \$200,000 racial discrimination lawsuit against the Lerner New York clothing store after they apparently refused to accept a return from the woman because she is black. The 26 year old woman was attempting to exchange several gifts given to her by her aunt when she was told that she could not even though the store policy allows such exchanges. The next day a friend of hers, who is white, attempted to bring back one of the articles of clothing and was able to with no questions asked. She was also successful in bringing back the rest of the items three months later. (*The Oregonian*, November 12, 1998)

9. ANTI-ABORTION ACTIVITY

- Anti-abortion activity in both Canada and the United States has continued unabated since the October 23 assassination of Amherst, New York clinic doctor, Barnett Slepian. The *Hamilton Spectator*, an Ontario based newspaper, received a cryptic, four page, anti-abortion diatribe from an anonymous sender. The letter stated, "We continue this righteous (war). Tactical meeting in Vancouver (Nov)." The *Hamilton Spectator* has received six such letters in the past year. From the hand writing samples, anti-abortion activist James Kopp is suspected of sending the letters. Kopp is also wanted in the United States on a federal material witness warrant because his car was spotted at the scene of the October shooting of Dr. Slepian. Kopp has most recently been spotted in New Jersey.
- The *B.C. Catholic*, the main Catholic newspaper in British Columbia, ran an editorial which said that positive things could be found in the killing of Dr. Barnett Slepian. In one part of the editorial, writer Paul Schratz wrote, "How can anyone help but be pleased that murders of abortionists just might have some positive side effects. Fewer doctors are willing to face the stigma and now the threat of personal harm associated with performing abortions. It goes to show that our powerful and all-loving God can bring good from any evil situation. If there's a positive outcome from immorality, that's the Lord's handiwork. It would be wrong not to notice it."
- From Friday, October 30, to Monday, November 2, at least nine U.S. clinics received packages containing a powdery substance and a letter claiming that "You have just been exposed to anthrax." The clinics targeted included two in Knoxville, Tennessee, one in Wichita, Kansas, one in Toledo, Ohio, two in Louisville, Kentucky and three in Indiana. All of the letters turned out to be a hoax and no suspects have been found in connection with the threats.
- On November 5, a can wrapped in duct tape was thrown at the Women's Health Care Services Clinic in Wichita, Kansas. The clinic is operated by a well-known abortion provider. No information was available on whether the item thrown was actually an explosive device.
- Shots were apparently fired at the North Carolina command post where federal agents are staying while they search for suspected clinic bomber Eric Rudolph. One bullet came through a wall and almost hit one of the agents in his head. Authorities don't know if the shooting was intentional or not but allegedly found eight shell casings from the area where the shots were fired. Federal agents have not given up on their search for Rudolph and are hoping that the winter weather will help in their search by thinning out the foliage. (*The Billings Gazette*, November 6, 1998; AP, November 8, 1998; AP, November 12, 1998; *The B.C. Catholic*, November 2, 1998; Reuters, November 5, 1998; AP, October 31, 1998; AP, November 2, 1998)

10. GERMANY ANTI-JEWISH VANDALISM: On the 60th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, swastikas were found scratched into a memorial erected in Berlin, Germany, to recognize the atrocities carried out against Jews during World War II. On the same day, a rock was thrown through the window of a home on the grounds of a Jewish cemetery in Potsdam and neo-Nazi graffiti was spray-painted on city walls in Schwerin. *Kristallnacht* ("The Night of Broken Glass") commemorates the brutal November 9, 1938 Nazi attacks on Synagogues and Jewish homes and businesses throughout Germany and Austria. (AP, November 9, 1998)

11. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PUNISHED FOR PROTESTING I-200: Approximately 175 students at Sunnyside High School in Benton County, Washington, were given 3-day suspensions after they walked out of classes on November 4, in protest of the passage of anti-affirmative action measure I-200. The suspensions were lessened to two days after the students and their parents went to the school and spoke with administrators. About 80 percent of the students on the Sunnyside school district are Hispanic while 85 percent of the administration is white. (*Tri-City Herald*, November 6, 1998)

12. "EX-NEO-NAZI" PROTESTS ANTI-ITALIAN BIGOTRY: Steve Natasi, known as Steve Bowers in organized white supremacist circles, recently sought to start a civil rights campaign in support of Italian Americans living in Walston, PA. His impetus for action was anti-Italian slurs made by his old Klan boss, C. Edward Foster. Foster referred to the local Roman Catholic Church as "this dago church" after they refused to let his Klan group hold a rally in the church's parking lot. Natasi was the leader of the Pennsylvania based Adolf Hitler Free Corps and until one year ago Foster's second in command with the American Knights of the KKK. (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, November 7, 1998)

- 13. ARMY OF ISRAEL LEADER MAY FACE PRISON TIME:** John Bangerter, leader of the white supremacist Army of Israel, faces the possibility of prison time after he recently tested positive for methamphetamine use while serving six months at the Purgatory Correctional Facility—a minimum security jail. Bangerter was serving time for carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle. (AP, November 5, 1998)
- 14. NEW F.A.I.R. COMMUNITY ORGANIZING PUBLICATION:** The anti-immigrant group Federation for American Immigration Reform has released a new publication titled *Building a Political Movement: A Guide for Community-Based Organizing*. The D.C. headquarters of FAIR is distributing the new “cookbook for immigration reform.” (202) 328-7004. (*FAIR Immigration Report*, November 1998)
- 15. CHRISTIAN KNIGHTS SUED FOR CHURCH BURNING:** Members of the predominately black Macedonia Baptist Church in South Carolina are attempting to seize the assets of Horace King’s Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The Christian Knights of the KKK were sued by the church and awarded \$37 million by a jury. The judge in the case later decreased the amount to \$21.5 million. Horace King was never charged but four of his Klan members are serving prison time for the arson. (AP, November 12, 1998)
- 16. SCRIPTURES FOR AMERICA SEMINAR:** Christian Identity preacher Pete Peters will be keynoting his Scriptures for America Seminar conference this year in Kissimmee, Florida. The conference is scheduled for January 15-17, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel Gateway. Other speakers include Earl Jones and Richard Hartman with music by Jim “The Colorado Singing Christian Cowboy” Lynch. Peters says he is planning to hold several of these seminars throughout 1999 in addition to his scheduled “family camp gatherings.” A Scriptures for America bulletin says that, “The seminars are going to be different than our past structured gatherings. They are going to be more Holy Spirit led in that there will be more extemporaneous speaking followed with questions and comments from the attendees, and Pastor Peters will be the predominate speaker and lecturer.” The dates of the family camp meetings are: April 2-4, Sonora, California; April 23-26, Charleston, West Virginia; and June 27-July 4, Golden, Colorado. Peters is also planning to conduct a “circuit riding preaching” tour which starts in Nashville, Tennessee. The event will be held in conjunction with Peters’ attendance at the National Religious Broadcasting Convention at the Opryland Hotel. The meeting is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (*Scriptures for America* mailing, December 1998)
- 17. VISIT M.O.M. AT IDAHO AND WASHINGTON STATE GUN SHOWS:** The Militia of Montana is planning to have tables at gun shows throughout Washington and Idaho. You can find M.O.M. during the following shows: Couer d’Alene, Idaho, Kootenai County Fairgrounds December 5-6; Spokane, Washington, Interstate Fairgrounds December 12-13 and January 2-3; Puyallup, Washington, Western Washington Fairgrounds December 19-20 and January 9-10; and the Boise, Idaho, Western Idaho State Fairgrounds January 16-17. M.O.M. said they will have several tables with videos, books, medical kits, survival tabs and “other needful items for you to choose from to aid you in your preparation for the Year 2000 millenium bug crisis.” (Militia of Montana flyer, December 1998)
- 18. FREEMAN RETRIAL CONVICTIONS:** The majority of the Montana Freeman continued not to recognize the court’s jurisdiction and refused to attend their second round of hearings. The Freeman’s first jury deadlocked on most of the charges but the second jury took two days to deliberate and convict nine Freeman of fraud and armed robbery. The armed robbery charge was for the robbery of an ABC news crew of over \$60,000 worth of equipment. In this trial Freeman guru LeRoy Schweitzer was convicted of interference with interstate commerce by threats or violence and of using a fire arm in connection with the robbery. Daniel E. Petersen, Jr. was convicted on two counts of robbery in connection with the ABC news crew robbery; one count of bank fraud, and one count of mail fraud. Added to Rodney Skurdal’s conviction of threatening a federal judge was a conviction of bank fraud and two counts of armed robbery in connection with the ABC robbery. Dale M. Jacobi, added, to his his previous 11-count conviction, a conviction for armed robbery. Richard E. Clark, was convicted of one count of bank fraud and two counts in connection to the ABC robbery. John P. McGuire, was convicted of one count of bank fraud; two counts in connection to the ABC robbery and five counts of firearms violations. William B. Stanton, was convicted of one count of bank fraud and one count of mail fraud. Agnes B. Stanton, was convicted of two counts of bank fraud. Cheryl B. Petersen, was convicted of two counts of bank fraud. Only one Freeman, Cornelius John “Casey” Veldhuizen, was acquitted on charges in connection with the robbery of the ABC news crew.

Only three members of the militia group were present in these hearings. Agnes B. Stanton, Cherlyn B. Peterson and John P. McGuire attended court hearings in regards to the ambush and robbery of the ABC Television crew in October 1995. One of the ABC crew members was not able to attend this round of hearings because she is pregnant and an FBI agent read testimony given by the woman in the previous hearings. The defense attorney for Freeman John McGuire protested the reading of testimony by the FBI agent. The attorney said that it was unfair and changed the dynamics of the testimony to have an attractive woman read the testimony when the person who said it is an overweight, pushy New York journalist. (*The Billings Gazette*, October 29/November 19, 1998; AP, November 19, 1998)

19. COMMUNITY COALITION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: The Seattle, Washington based Community Coalition for Environmental Justice has a new *Environmental Justice Resource Guide*. The publication gives the names and addresses of environmental justice groups in the state of Washington. The guide also includes funding sources. For more information on the CCEJ, ordering their resource guide or subscribing to their excellent newsletter, write: CCEJ, 1419 S. Jackson, St., Suite 104, Seattle, WA 98144. (CCEJ Newsletter, Vo. 4, No. 2, 1998)

••• The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to chdpdx@aol.com. Alternatively you can mail such items to the address below or call us either in Portland or Seattle at the numbers listed below. CHD Research staff rely upon such information to fill out much of the Northwest Update and we appreciate your contributions. •••

